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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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FLOW-LESS

Sewage-stricken Bellandur

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DOWN UNDER

A tale of delays

PAGE 5

Roof of platform 18 at Majestic bus station came crashing down in heavy rain putting passenger safety at risk

WHEN APATHY HIT THE ROOF

Roof that collapsed on November 7 constructed 3 decades ago

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Is it safe for passengers to take shelter on platforms at the KG Bus Station? Considering the condition of platforms at the bus station, and a portion of the roof that came crashing down a few days ago due to heavy rain, the passengers waiting to board Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses are vulnerable to accidents.

The roof of the platforms at the facility, also known as the Majestic Bus Station, was constructed more than three decades ago.

The roofs of most of the platforms have cracks all over and are set to collapse in the near future, posing danger to hundreds of commuters who wait to board BMTC buses to reach their destinations daily.

A portion of the roof of platform 18 at the KG Bus Station came crashing down due to the heavy rain on November 7. Though no casualties were reported, the collapse of the roof frightened people waiting at the time on the other platforms.

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“We have sent a proposal to the DULT to help us to redesign the KG Bus Station

— Sathyavathi G, MD, BMTC

Wild things

‘Forest officials sent on deputation to irrelevant posts/ external departments as critical positions lay vacant’

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Although reeling under an acute shortage of staff in critical positions in its divisions, the Karnataka Forest Department has not shied away from putting officials on deputations - at times to irrelevant posts and external departments. According to information provided by KFD, in 2022-23, as many as 58 officials were sent. Last year, 60 officials were on deputation.

These officials, of mostly IFS and SFS, hold the charge of deputation posts in various departments and government agencies such as Forests, Environment & Ecology Department, KFDC, KSFIC, KCDC, Watershed, Tourism, Lake Development, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Karnataka Medicinal Plant Authority, Jungle Lodges and EMPRI, MGIRED, CADA, Karnataka Pollution Board, KSHDC, MPM, BDA, BBMP and KBJNL.

Conservationists said IFS and SFS officers should be posted on wildlife/forest protection and conservation posts, especially when many critical posts are lying vacant.

“While some of the departments of deputation such as Forest, Environment and Ecology, Karnataka Forest Development Corporation Limited, and Karnataka

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Time to slay

If you love cosplaying and you have been waiting for something big, then your wait is about to get over. Get excited, as Bengaluru Comic Con is back with its 11th edition this month. From celebrity guests to awesome merchandise, some of the biggest cosplayers will be part of the event. Along with showcasing comics in a big way, the event will see panels and exclusive sessions.
Where: KTPO Trade Centre, Whitefield
When: November 17 to 19

02 Creative zone

If you have been waiting to shop for Deepawali, then here's your chance to visit the Grand Rajasthani Exhibition organised by Maaruthi Enterprises. The event aims to bring rural artisans from the eastern part of the country together. Explore a vast collection of cotton and silk handlooms, handicrafts, Odisha tie and dye, dress material, Odisha sarees, and more. Puppet show is live at the expo.
Where: Sri Hari Kalyana Mandapa, 5, 136, Kims Medical College, 17, 30th Main Road, opp Bata, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Banashankari
When: until November 14; 10 am to 9 pm

03 Deepawali special

The festival of lights is here, and it's obvious to not hold oneself back from having fun. Engage in one of the most therapeutic and colourful events. Grab your bright painting colours and paint brushes, as well as get along with many to paint diyas. The event welcomes individuals from 5 to 7 years of age. **Where: Ranga Shankara Foyer**
When: Today; 11 am- 1 pm; registration: programming@rangashankara.in

Deepawali vibes only

People were seen buying flowers for Deepawali at City Market in Bengaluru on Saturday

Tackling primary concerns: Jogging with a purpose

This duo gathers 10 kg of litter after plogging around Haralur Lake for 41 minutes; other ploggers from city highlight its advantages in raising community awareness

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How well do we maintain our parks and lakesides? Well, when two individuals decided to do plogging on Friday, they were shocked to collect at least 10 kg of waste, and that too only on one side of Haralur Lake.

Bharathi Athinarayanan, a technologist by profession, said, "We decided to do a plog run at Haralur Lake and were surprised to collect 10 kg of trash. Most of the trash consists of covers of junk food items (chips, chocolates, etc.) along with plastic bottles, tetra packs, etc. Basically, we need to encourage plogging. It is a combination of jogging and picking up litter that can make a significant difference in multiple ways. It will have an environmental impact, as by picking up trash during a jog, ploggers help to reduce litter in their communities." Plogging can lead to cleaner streets, parks, and other public spaces. It is believed to have numerous health benefits, as plogging adds a bending and squatting motion to the traditional jogging movement, which can lead to additional health benefits.

"It is also great community engagement, as plogging events can bring together members of the community, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility for the cleanliness and well-being of their shared spaces," he added. Athinarayanan was joined by Manmohan, an engineering student.

Most of the collected trash consists of covers of junk food items along with plastic bottles, tetra packs, etc.

"To avoid trash on roads, we need to take several measures. There is a need to conduct awareness campaigns about the environmental impact of littering, which can encourage people to dispose of their waste properly. We need to ensure that there are enough trash cans and recycling bins in public areas and that they are emptied regularly. There is a need to implement and enforce tough laws to discourage littering," he explained.

The duo collectively took up plogging and thereby burned 600 calories as well. In a span of 41 minutes, the park got cleaned. As it was Athinarayanan's 41st birthday, they did it for 41 minutes and cleaned up the Haralur Lake park. In fact, plogging is picking up as a trend among volunteers in the city who want to make their surroundings a clean and green place. Many in Malleswaram also take up plogging regularly to keep the area clean.

G Krishnan, a resident of Malleswaram, said, "We take up plogging in our area regularly. During each plogging, we collect approximately 12 kg of litter. This initiative is part of our commitment to the Malleswaram social movement, aimed at fostering a cleaner environment. The plogging initiative started as a small movement but is picking up slowly as even the onlookers who are seeing us plogging are impressed and join us, and thereby we are getting more hands to clean."

> **"It is also great community engagement, as plogging events can bring together members of the community**
> – Bharathi Athinarayanan

Ploggers say that a variety of items are regularly strewn across the streets, including pan masala packets, chewing gum wrappers, cigarette butts, discarded tablet strips, and more. "Plogging helps us sensitise the community about responsible waste disposal. The sight of plastic littered under parked cars and around saplings can act as a wake-up call. We're not just cleaning up; we're also spreading awareness and initiating change. In fact, plogging is a perfect example of how individuals, regardless of age or background, can champion a cause," said Anita Kumari, a plogger.

Reporting abuser: 'It's not easy'

Woman complains of not feeling secure while making complaints to police about assault case involving her ex-boyfriend; delay adds to travail

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"Every time I approached the police for a follow-up on my assault case, I didn't feel secure. It was torture to explain the same thing again and again to several officers, giving the horrifying details," says the victim, who was stalked, assaulted, and strangled by her ex-boyfriend.

The incident occurred in the first week of October, and it took Bengaluru police more than a month to arrest the accused, despite all the proof and witnesses.

On November 10, the Bellandur police arrested a 30-year-old man who was on the run for stalking, harassing, assaulting, and attempting to murder his ex-girlfriend.

"The reason why the accused has gone missing is because the police officers called him and spoke to him about the case after the victim had gone to them (before the FIR). They did this to attempt the 'compromise' option, which they do in most cases to avoid doing any real work, and they pulled this move despite the severity of the charges," said a source who helped the victim file the FIR.

A month full of dilemma

After the accused was finally arrested, BM spoke to the victim to understand what the victim went through for a month.

"After the FIR was filed, I approached the police 4-5 times, and every time they would have the same answer. Sometimes they would say that they were going to arrest the man right 'now', and later I would find out that no arrest was made. When I would approach them again, they would say things like they were busy with other cases. The police would make me feel like they were going to arrest the man, as I had given his phone number and residential address, but then nothing would happen," she told BM.

Not so comfortable moment

She adds that the trouble didn't end there, and each time she would have to go through a series of misogynistic comments. "They asked why I was reporting the incident late and why I was dating someone like that in the first place. I could feel it in their question that they think it's my fault," she added.

> **"They asked why I was reporting the incident late and why I was dating someone like that in the first place**
> – the victim who was assaulted by her ex-boyfriend

The victim recalls that at the time of even filing the FIR, she had to sit in the police station for hours to register the complaint as the cops made her change the format, argued with her about why she was putting certain sections, tried telling her to come some other day, and "basically did everything to discourage us from doing this."

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Restaurant boom, drain gloom: Bellandur's sorrow

Citizens claim old Panchayat drains fail, causing sewage overflow and blockage amid rapid urbanisation

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In Bellandur's vibrant neighbourhood along Sarjapur Road, the Golden Corner apartment complex faces an enduring sewage challenge. Constructed in 2003, the complex grapples with an outdated drainage system amid rapid urbanisation. Over the past four years, residents claim the ageing panchayat drainage systems servicing much of Bellandur have struggled to meet heightened demand, mainly because of the growing number of restaurants in the area. The strain on these antiquated drains has led to blockages, causing sewage overflow within and outside the Golden Corner apartments, which has worsened notably in the past year.

Residents have lodged numerous complaints about this issue, recently prompting officials to desilt the drain. However, the relief brought by this action is seen as temporary by the residents, who fear the problem will resurface.

The apartment complex's association member said, "Since about 3-4 years, our complex has been facing the sewage outflow issue. At our own expense, we had, with the assistance of BBMP, re-laid a small stretch with bigger pipes. This is also not helping us as an opposite building is housing 4 - 5 restaurants that flush down all their liquid waste resulting in choking of the chambers that, in turn, block our outflow. Temporary help comes from BBMP gang men and BWSSB jetting machines. By the time the help reaches us, we encounter sewage spillover inside the complex. We have been facing grave health issues due to overflowing drains. Although we have made several complaints to the Assistant Engineer, Zonal commissioner, and Joint commissioner about the issue, the authorities have not taken any steps to provide a permanent solution."

Blockages in drains triggered sewage overflow at Golden Corner apartment; resident complaints prompted drain desilting recently

The resident added, "What adds to the issue's complexity is the recommendation from BBMP/BWSSB to install Sewage Treatment Plants (STP). However, apartments constructed before July 7, 2004, are technically exempt from this requirement, according to Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) guidelines. The matter has further escalated to the legal arena, as the apartment complex and 329 others have taken their case to the Supreme Court."

The Bengaluru Nava Nirmana Party (BNP) highlighted the issue faced by the residents. Vishnu Reddy, Zonal President of the Mahadevapura zone of BNP, said, "The lack of coordination among different civic agencies has resulted in unresolved civic issues like this one. The BBMP should have transferred control of the drain to BWSSB long ago, but the absence of coordination has caused inconvenience to the residents. This situation underscores the importance of unifying agencies into a single, coordinated body for efficient administration, ensuring that civic issues are promptly addressed."

> **"By the time the help reaches us, we encounter sewage spillover inside the complex. We have been facing grave health issues due to overflowing drains**
> – A resident

The residents also pointed out that the consequence of the drainage issue has taken a toll on the apartment's occupants (133 flats spread over 4 blocks), resulting in illnesses due to the persistent sewage water overflow.

Clogged concerns: HBR Layout's battle for clean drains

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For over 15 years, residents of the 5th Block of HBR Layout have been in a relentless battle for proper sewage disposal and environmental preservation. Despite their efforts, the issue persists, with continuous sewage discharge into the stormwater drains (SWD) and subsequent sewage water pumping from manhole chambers, resulting in significant environmental pollution. In an attempt to find a solution, residents have submitted a petition to the High Court of Karnataka, emphasizing how BWSSB authorities allow sewage water to enter the stormwater drains.

V Pichandi, a resident of HBR Layout, 5th block, has said that the residents demand to ensure no sewage enters the stormwater drains in the HBR Layout.

"We have been suffering a lot for more than a decade. There is no proper underground drainage facility for us. The BWSSB engineers are pumping sewage water into stormwater drains, thus causing a lot of inconvenience to the people residing in the 5th Block of HBR Layout," said Pichandi. The residents complain that they are not in a position to use their restrooms to attend to nature's call due to the stagnation of sewage in the underground drainage pipe. "The stagnation and accumulation of sewage in drainage pipes have become not only a health hazard, but also the stink emanating from the nearby open drain makes our life miserable," he said.

> **"The stagnation and accumulation of sewage in drainage pipes have not only become a health hazard but also make our lives miserable due to the stink** – V Pichandi

Sewage water being pumped into a storm water drain

Expressing concern over unhygienic conditions, Satish Thimmegowda, a Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) leader, said that planning sustainable drain management in HBR Layout is not for the well-being of the environment and future generations. "Sustainability can be achieved only through coordinated efforts between different civic agencies. It is essential to ensure that the allocated funds, often amounting to crores, are used to address this critical issue," said Satish Thimme Gowda.

Coming down on the BWSSB authorities for letting sewage water into the stormwater drains, Vikram Malar Vijay, a resident, has said, "Despite repeated complaints and alarms being raised, both the BWSSB and the BBMP have been engaged in a blame game rather than collaborating effectively to address this issue".

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Drain neglect

Yelahanka

Persistent drainage problems in Yelahanka New Town go unaddressed as BBMP overlooks complaints regarding residential-area eateries.

Urban struggle

JC Road

In the Kumbaragundi Layout near JC Road, behind Shivaji Talkies, road and living conditions raise concerns, especially for our pourakarmikas.

Road ruckus

Vasanth Nagar

In Ward 93 Vasanth Nagar, particularly on Shivajinagar Police Station Road, sluggish roadwork causes intolerable dust and stench.

A tale of delays

Panathur Cross faces prolonged traffic struggles as completion of underpass lingers until 2025

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The Panathur Cross traffic ordeal may persist until 2025, with the first section of the underpass potentially done in 5-6 months, provided officials resolve land acquisition challenges.

The Panathur RUB has been a concern for commuters for years, and the proposed underpass with two vents is also unfinished.

The project, addled with various issues, has been stagnant for months; now, with many projects being restarted after elections, officials hope that the first vent will be completed in 5-6 months. While the vent has been ready, it has not been opened to the public due to delays in constructing the approach road.

However, even after vent 1 is opened, it might take up to 12 months to complete the entire. In total, the work might be completed in 2025 and give some relief to commuters.

Commuters and residents had pinned their hopes on the completion of the joint project by K-Ride and BBMP, but there seems to be an inordinate delay,

"The drainage line under the underpass has to be connected to the main line. We expect the work to be done in 1.5 years

"Work on the Panathur underpass is in progress. The approach road to vent 1 started after solving the land acquisition required for the construction, which is still in progress. The drainage line under the underpass has to be connected to the main line. We expect the work to be completed within 1.5 years", said Clement Jayakumar, General Secretary of Mahadevapura Task Force-Mobility.

However, residents feel that work won't be completed even within 1.5 years. "We are not confident about the 1.5-year deadline. The Panathur S cross was supposed to be widened and has now been reduced to 12 m. The project has many issues pending concerning land acquisition issues. Private property owners are quoting a higher price. This road connects Varthur to ORR and is a significant route for commuters. School children travelling by the stretch get stuck for 2 hours.

Alternatively, commuters can go from Whitefield to Varthur and Gunjur to ORR, but these are longer routes. An alternative route was proposed from New Horizon College, and half a road was built, but it has been halted," said Arif M, a resident.

He added that BBMP, MLA and the traffic department can provide some relief if the water tankers are banned from using the stretch. "A big part of the congestion is due to the water tankers. If all the officials collectively decide to restrict access to these water tankers, the burden on motorists could be reduced at least during peak school hours. Additionally, since officials have been struggling with land acquisition issues, some other alternative should be identified and tried," he added.

Inter-state job scam: CBI nabs three

In a major breakthrough, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) announced on Friday that it has successfully dismantled an illegal job racket operating across multiple states. The arrests shed light on Karnataka emerging as the top destination for job seekers in this illicit network.

The CBI officials conducted searches at nine places, including Patna, Mumbai, Bangalore, Mangalore & Dhanbad, including two fake training centres at Sakinaka, Mumbai and one in Patna (Bihar) in which around 25 jobseekers were being imparted training after fake appointments for jobs, purportedly of various Central government departments like FCI, Railways, GST, etc.

"During searches at Sakinaka training centre, most job seekers were found to be from Karnataka, and few were from Maharashtra," it added.

"In Bangalore, an accomplice of an accused was found taking two prospective jobseekers inside the GST office purportedly for signing appointment letters as per modus operandi to show genuineness. In Mangalore, the main two kingpins (accused) were also found preparing to set up a new fake training centre for prospective job seekers. All three were nabbed," the agency statement added.

It was also alleged that the accused had conducted fake training of jobseekers at Nagpur (Maharashtra), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Patna & Buxer (Bihar) and Bangalore (Karnataka)

A CBI spokesperson, in a statement, said that the arrested accused will be produced before the Competent Court. It was alleged that the modus operandi of these accused was to approach desperate jobseekers who were preparing for examinations for the posts of various Central government departments. It was further alleged that the accused had been running a fake job racket for the past two years and "duped crores of rupees from jobseekers". The case was registered against six accused and unknown public servants & others. **ANI**

THE SUNDAY READ

Second career for heroes

Organisation helps army veterans to get placement in other jobs post-retirement

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File photo of cadets getting commissioned for various services in the Indian Army at the officers' training academy; inset: The AWPO Headquarters Karnataka & Kerala Sub Area in Bengaluru has got over 2,382 veterans placed

About 1,200 officers and 60,000 Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) retire from the Indian Army every year. They constitute a well-trained, self-motivated and highly skilled workforce.

A majority of the officers retire in their early fifties and PBOR retire at an early age group of 36 – 45 years. Being in the prime years of their life and having been groomed over the years with a result-oriented culture, these veterans seek avenues to rehabilitate themselves in a second career. In a bid to facilitate jobs for the army veterans, the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) was set up and in the last several years, the organisation has been able to provide second career opportunities to over 55,000 PBOR and 1,000 officers.

Portal to new life

The AWPO is a non-profit organisation. It was raised as an army placement agency in 1999 and later in 2010 it became Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO). It started from Delhi and now has a pan-India presence with 18 Placement Regional Nodes and 54 Placement Cells. New placement cell has been opened to cater to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh located at Nagrota. AWPO functions through its dedicated and interactive web portal exammynaukri.com to meet the prospective employers' manpower requirements with an updated database. There are more than 2.5 lakh army veterans registered with AWPO seeking jobs for their second career.

Bengaluru unit

Over the past three years, from 2021 to 2023, the AWPO at the Headquarters Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area in Bengaluru has successfully facilitated the placement of over 2,382 retired army veterans into various civilian careers. In 2021, from January to December, a total of 728 retired army veterans found placement opportunities through the AWPO. Among these placements, 20 were retired officers, which included Generals, Lieutenants, Colonels, and others. Additionally, 117 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), such as Naib Subedars and Subedars, and 591 Other Ranks (including Havaldars) secured placements. There was remarkable progress in 2022, with 895 retired army veterans successfully transitioning to new careers. This number included 24 officers, 218 JCOs, and 653 Other Ranks. As for the year 2023, from January to October, a total of 729 retired army veterans have already received placement opportunities. This figure comprises 17 officers, 174 JCOs, and 508 Other Ranks.

Major General Ajay Singh Chauhan, SC, SM (Retd), the Managing Director of AWPO, Delhi, told BM, "Individuals who retire from the Army do so at a relatively young age. Due to family responsibilities and financial needs, they often seek employment. Our armed forces are highly trained professionals with a diverse range of qualities, including discipline, commitment, goal orientation, leadership, loyalty, decisiveness, and more. They possess 140 different skill sets acquired during their service in the Indian army, encompassing areas such as oil drilling and aviation. The army is divided into three categories: Combat Arm, Technical Arm, and Logistics, each with its own unique skill sets. Many retirees also choose to pursue courses in various fields at reputable educational institutions to enhance their skills and knowledge before retirement. With their maturity, extensive experience, diverse skills, and strong moral values, army veterans are well-suited for a wide range of roles in the corporate world."

> **Our armed forces are highly trained professionals with a diverse range of qualities, including discipline, commitment, goal orientation, leadership, loyalty, decisiveness, and more** – Major Gen (retd) Ajay Singh Chauhan, AWPO

For bereaved

The Indian army adds nearly 1,000 widows every year, while the educational qualification amongst the widows may vary, but AWPO also seeks placements for these widows and children of martyrs into the corporate world as part of the CSR program. In 2021, over 160 widows have received placements and since 2010, there are 1,500 widows and dependents who have got placements through AWPO.

About how the process for job placements are carried out, Lt Col N Shariff, Director (Karnataka), AWPO, HQ K&K Sub Area told BM, "We have a job vacancy card (JVC) that is sent to the employing company and they have to fill it with the relevant details that include the kind of job, salary, number of vacancies, job role, experience and others. Once we receive the form, based on the criteria, we go through our database and select suitable candidates for the job role and send their resume to the company. The selected candidates will have a round of interview with us at the HQ K&K centre, where we guide them and polish their skills and then they go ahead with the company interview, after which the company gets directly in touch with them to let them know if they are hired or not. There are various job roles suitable for retired army veterans. For instance, the retired officers can get placed as directors, top level managers, professionals like doctors, engineers, academicians, senior level administrators and more. For the JCOs, they have opportunities like middle level managers, office superintendents or assistants, specialist stores in charge, fire fighting officers, supervisors in security, transport fleets and others. While for the OR, draughtsman, surveyors, aviation fitters, technicians and others."

Entrepreneurship

The AWPO also facilitates entrepreneurship or setting up of startups among the veteran fraternity. Recently a number of veterans were given suitable skills to set up these startups. "The Army also runs 13 professional institutes for the dependents of army personnel. The young dependents who graduate from these institutions are embedded with the same ethos of discipline and training," said Lt Col N Shariff.

The consistent effort of the AWPO is playing a pivotal role in aiding retired army veterans as they transition to civilian careers, making a significant impact on their post-military lives.

Long weekend rides are too costly

As passengers complain of super-pricey tickets during weekends, state govt thinking of amendment to rein in private operators

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File photo of travellers waiting to board buses during a busy weekend

Another long weekend has arrived and many from the city are again having to shell out big bucks to travel. As the travellers pressurise the government to bring in rules to stop transport agencies from fleecing them, the Government is exploring various options, including an amendment to rein in private operators and prevent surge pricing.

For example, Bengaluru to Hyderabad tickets are priced as high as Rs 3,799 while that for Mangaluru costs Rs 2,148 in select buses for this weekend. "Despite travelers expressing frustration with the government and the transport department for failing to curb surge pricing, the government is failing to make efforts that can be enforced," said Dinesh Raj, who had to pay a hefty price to get to his hometown this weekend.

Reacting to this, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said during the Ganesha festival, cases were booked against 700, and a total fine of Rs 2 lakh was collected as a penalty for surge pricing. "Similar actions were taken during Dasara. During festivals or long holidays, KSRTC deploys extra buses, discouraging people from using private buses. I will instruct officials to act against surge pricing during Deepawali. I will discuss with transport department officials, we may need to bring in an amendment to rein in private buses."

Govt thinks of ways to help bus passengers, but not many are convinced effective action is being taken

However, many are dissatisfied by the lack of action.

"Despite announcements of surprise checks and regulation of private bus operators to prevent ticket price inflation during festivals, no concrete measures were taken," said Jagan Kumar, a traveller. But, Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations president Nataraj Sharma defended the surge price. "The buses get maximum passengers only for three days a week while for the rest of the four days, the buses run empty. We need to tide over the losses," he said.

No fare revision

Reddy said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will make a decision on forming a commission similar to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) to determine fare hikes for financially strained state transport corporations like BMTC and KSRTC.. Reddy stated, "When Basavaraj Bommai was the Chief Minister, he constituted a one-man committee led by retired IAS officer MR Sreenivasa Murthy to revamp the state transport corporations. The committee's report recommended the formation of a commission. The last fare revision was done in 2015, and since then, diesel prices have been revised, salaries have increased twice, and spare parts costs have risen. There is a financial strain on the transport corporations. Hence, there is a proposal to constitute the commission. Let me clarify, currently, there is no proposal for fare revision."

BM Health

Eye on your eyes, this Deepawali

Deepawali shopping in the city on Saturday

A seven-year-old boy from Bangarpet, a bystander, was injured in a cracker burst on Friday. Doctors at Minto Ophthalmic Hospital said the boy suffered from a traumatic cataract, traumatic uveitis, and hyphema secondary to a firecracker injury.

Doctors have reiterated their advice to people to exercise caution while celebrating Deepawali as the cases of eye injuries have been on the rise over the years.

Dr. Nagaraju G (Director, RIO, Minto Ophthalmic Hospital) said, "The Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Minto Ophthalmic Hospital will be offering emergency medical and surgical treatment 24 x7 to firecracker injury patients during Deepawali. A team of doctors has been made available round the clock." According to him, these steps have been taken for patients: A dedicated firecracker injury ward with 10 male and female beds each, and 15 beds for children, a total of 35 beds for patients requiring inpatient treatment. Examination and evaluation, emergency treatment, and nurses stations will be present in the same wing. If surgery is

If sparks hit the eye: Stay calm, do not rub your eyes, clean them and get to a doc soon

needed in any such patients, facilities have been made available in the operation theatre in the same block. In the case of eye injuries with facial or body burns, there is a dedicated multidisciplinary team of plastic surgeons from Victoria Hospital to manage the same," he said.

Dr. Anand Balasubramanium (Consultant - Cornea, Cataract & Refractive Services, Sankara Eye Hospital) gave some tips in case of an injury. "If sparks enter your eyes, maintain composure to avert potential injuries. Avoid rubbing your eyes, as it can worsen the damage. Instead, gently blink to allow tears to wash out any particles. Use a gentle stream of lukewarm water to rinse your eyes for at least 10-15 minutes, ensuring the water is neither too hot nor too cold. If discomfort persists or you observe redness, swelling, or changes in vision, promptly consult a healthcare professional. Refrain from using any eye drops or medications without consulting a healthcare professional. Keep clean water close to where you are bursting crackers."

—Sridhar Vivan

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

ON THE LOOKOUT

A green bee-eater perching on a stem in Alur, Hassan

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Dilip N Gowda**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Progress tests patience: Lake's slow development

Arekere Lake to be rejuvenated by following year; garbage menace continues to plague nearby areas

Arekere Lake, a 38-acre oasis in the heart of Bengaluru, is on the path to revival, with 6 acres already rejuvenated. However, the journey to reclaim this natural treasure has been fraught with legal disputes, financial setbacks, and political challenges.

A decision made around 25 to 30 years ago resulted in the sale of 4 acres of land belonging to Arekere Lake. This sparked a lengthy legal battle that remains unresolved and continues to cast a shadow over the project's timeline.

Originally slated for completion a couple of years ago, significant progress was made when an infusion of funds totaling Rs 8 crore breathed new life into the venture. Unfortunately, complications arose as payments to contractors were delayed, leading them to abandon their work altogether. As it stands now, there is still a substantial outstanding payment owed amounting to Rs 2 crore due to BBMP contractors, further impeding forward momentum on this ambitious endeavour.

> **"It is important to diversify the use of the lake to generate revenue**
>
> – Murali, Ex-corporator of Arekere

Another noteworthy hurdle hindering progress stems from three years without political representation at Arekere Lake. The absence of a dedicated corporator during this period has hampered effective advocacy and oversight for the initiative.

Murali, the ex-corporator of Arekere, said, "The lake would be fully rejuvenated by the following year, and it is important to diversify its use to generate revenue. Plans include introducing boating and other recreational activities to attract visitors and ensure the lake's long-term sustainability."

Environmental issues have continued to trouble the areas around the lake. At night, the trash is disposed of by the owner of the chicken centre, hotel, or shopkeepers. In addition, people who live here use scooters and cars to throw away trash—a main cause of destroying nature there.

Bhagyalakshmi, another former corporator of Arekere, said, "There has been some progress in the lake's development over the past few years. However, various constraints have slowed down the pace of rejuvenation." While the revitalisation of lake moves forward, stakeholders will have to work closely together to resolve lawsuits, manage finances, and make sure the project is completed within time by 2024. **— Sanjana Rao**

The journey to reclaim the revival of Arekere Lake has been fraught with legal disputes and financial setbacks

DID YOU KNOW?

Rajeev Taranath is one of the most popular classical musicians. He is known to play sarod. He was born in Bengaluru and received his first training from his father. When he was young, he used to perform for All India Radio. He is the recipient of some of the most prestigious awards, such as the Padma Shri, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, and more. He also holds a PhD in literature and went on to teach English at the University of Aden in the 1980s.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

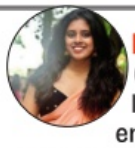
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

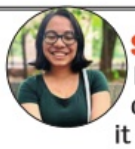
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What are the annual events or festivals in Bengaluru that you look forward to the most?

Kakarla Haasini, BM Reader
Some of the popular events that I enoy in Bengaluru are Bengaluru Habba, Bengaluru Karaga, and Bengaluru Fashion Week.

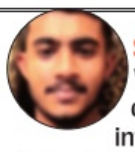


Ramyashree D, BM Reader
Ganesh Chaturthi is a festival I look forward to, as the bustling energy of Gandhi Bazar and Ganesha stalls at Yediyur Lake is amazing. The cherry on top is the Bengaluru Ganesh Utsav events. Another one is the Kadalekai Parishe in Basavanagudi.



Sanjana Saxena, BM Reader
Mine would probably be Holi because in my house we celebrate it in a very simple and eco-friendly way, and more than that, we all receive and make so many delicious sweets. I look forward to those special sweets throughout the year.

Sinchana, BM Reader
The street festivals are great. People can engage in activities and other states and city cultures, food items, and many more things in one place.



Sanjan Raj, BM Reader
Varamahalakshmi vrata, celebrated by married women, involves the worship of the goddess Varamahalakshmi for well-being and prosperity. For comedy enthusiasts, the Bengaluru Comedy Festival is a week of laughter with stand-up comedians from all over India.

Nakul Sidharth, BM Reader
Bengaluru Karaga is an age-old tradition and a unique folk festival celebrated with processions and rituals, depicting the rich cultural heritage of the city.

SPEAK TO US

What are some art galleries, museums, or cultural venues in Bengaluru that you enjoy visiting?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Regular exercises, including an adequate amount of calcium in your diet, and moderating alcohol and smoking can help in managing osteoporosis

Bitter gourd is beneficial for purifying blood by efficiently clearing out impurities

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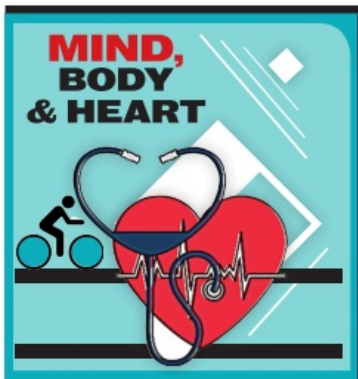

All you need to know about...

Benefit of reading

Dealing with loneliness
According to a recent study, people can manage their feelings of isolation and loneliness as well as reduce their symptoms of anxiety and hopelessness by reading, writing, and sharing poetry.

For wellbeing
The Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded study by the University of Plymouth and Nottingham Trent University discovered that many people who used poetry to cope with the covid-19 pandemic experienced a "demonstrable positive impact on their wellbeing."

Lyrical help
Based on a 400-person study, the results imply that poetry can help both bereaved individuals and those going through typical mental health symptoms.
It was conducted with registered users of the website poetryandcovid.com (now archived as poetryandcovidarchive.com), who used the website to share and/or read other people's poetry.
A little more than half (51 per cent) of respondents said that reading and/or writing poetry helped them deal with feelings of loneliness or isolation, while another 50 per cent said it helped them deal with anxiety and sadness.

Antidote to anxiety
A third (34 per cent) said that using the website made them feel "less anxious," 24 per cent said it made them "feel better able to handle my problems," 17 per cent said it helped them deal with bereavement issues, and 16 per cent said it helped with ongoing mental health symptoms.
"These results demonstrate the substantial power of poetry," said Principal Investigator Anthony Caleshu, Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at the University of Plymouth.
"Writing and reading poetry, as well as engaging with the website, had a considerable positive impact on the wellbeing of the participants during the covid-19 pandemic.

—ANI

CRACKING DEEPAWALI FARE

Craving to make festival more flavoursome? Try these recipes

RAGI ANJEER ROLL

Ragi Roll Stuffed with Anjeer and Nuts.

INGREDIENTS
- Dried Figs 80 grams
- ragi flour 80 grams
- jaggery 50 grams
- Almonds 5- No
- Pistachios 10 No
- Cashews 5 No
- Ghee 4 tablespoon

For Garnish
- Chop dry nuts

METHOD
- Soak a fig in warm water for 20 minutes.
- After soaking, remove the water and blend the fig into paste without water.
- In a separate pan, cook ragi flour and jaggery in ghee until it forms a thick paste and keep aside.
- Cut up some pistachios, almonds, and cashews.
- In a non-stick pan, heat a tablespoon of ghee and add the chopped nuts. Fry them for a couple of minutes on medium heat, but make sure they don't change color.
- Add the fig paste to the pan and mix it well, Keep cooking the mixture until it thickens and becomes difficult to stir.
- Once it cools down a bit, roll the ragi dough and the fig paste into a cylindrical shape on a piece of parchment paper.
- Cut in small cylindrical shape and garnish with chopped dry nuts. Serve.

GULAB LADOO

Gulab Ladoo is a sweet Indian delicacy made with dates, figs, pistachios, edible rose petals,

INGREDIENTS:
- Cashew Nuts 2 cup
- Milk Powder 2 tbsp.
- Cardamom Powder 1/3 tsp
- Sugar 1 cup
- Silver leaf 4 no.
- Saffron 1/4 tsp
- Oats powder (optional) 3 tbsp.
- Dried rose petals for Garnish

Stuffing
- Gulkand 2 tbsp.
- Mixed Dry fruits 1.5 tbsp.
- Fennel powder 1/4 tsp
- Cardamom Powder 1/4 tsp

METHOD
- Grind cashews in a grinder to make a powder. (If using oats, dry roast them in a pan or microwave for a minute and grind to make a fine powder. Add the oat powder to the cashew powder.)
- Make a sugar syrup as per your liking and add cardamom powder to it. Add cashew powder and milk powder to the sugar syrup and mix well.
- When this mixture cools down to room temperature, knead the dough until smooth, and then make small ladoos from the dough..

Stuffing
- In a bowl, mix gulkand, crushed mixed nuts, fennel powder, and cardamom powder well. Then make small balls of the stuffing (smaller than ladoo).
- Take a cashew ladoo and flatten it on your palm. Stuff the gulkand ball in it and close it from all the sides to make a smooth ladoo (ball) shape.
- Stick silver leaf on the balls and make a ring of saffron paste by dipping a small bottle's cap in the saffron paste and gently pressing it on the top of ladoo. Roll the ladoo with dried rose petals, Garnish with a pistachio slice on top and serve.

DAHI GUJIYA

Dahi Gujiya is a soft, half-moon shaped snack that's filled with nuts. It's then topped with a layer of creamy, whipped yogurt. It's so tender that it just melts in your mouth.

INGREDIENTS
- For Gujiya • Urad Dal 1 Cup
- Salt To Taste

For Stuffing
- Raisins 20-25 No. • Cashews 15-20 No.
- Chironjee 1 Tbsp. • Green Chilly 1 Finely Chopped • Ginger 1 Tsp Finely Chopped
- Salt To Taste • Oil For Fry
- Fresh Curd 1 Cup • Black Salt To Taste
- Red Chilly 5 Gram • Roasted Cumin Powder 5 Gram • Coriander Leaves Garnish • Mint Chutneys

METHOD
- Gujiya
- Soak the dal overnight.
- Blend the dal into a thick paste with a bit of salt and water.
- Beat the batter until it's fluffy.
- Mix the stuffing ingredients.
- Heat up oil for frying.
- Use a bowl and a wet cloth to shape the batter into a flat disc, add some nuts to the disc. Fold the disc over to make a half-moon shape.
- Sprinkle some cumin seeds on top.
- Fry the gujiya in the oil until its golden brown.
- Assembling the Dahi Gujiya
- Put the fried Gujiyas in warm water with a bit of asafetida. Let them rest for 15-20 minutes.
- Stir the curd until it's smooth, add a little salt and sugar to the curd.
- Make a glass of salty buttermilk.
- Squeeze the water out of the Gujiyas, put the Gujiyas in the buttermilk and let them soak.
- After 15 minutes, take the Gujiyas out of the buttermilk and put them on a plate.
- Pour a lot of the smooth curd over the Gujiyas.
- Add spices, coriander leaves, and green chilies on top.
- Serve it cold with some chutneys.

Chef Gaurav Bansal, Executive Sous Chef, Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway

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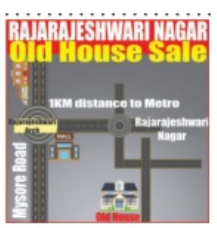

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Dravid hails 'captain fantastic' Rohit in India's World Cup odyssey

Rohit Sharma was hailed on Saturday as a "fantastic" captain for leading India to a perfect eight wins from eight matches and a place in the World Cup semi-finals.

India play their last league match against the Netherlands in Bengaluru on Sunday before they move on to the semi-finals.

The hosts have remained unbeaten with impressive wins over arch-rivals Pakistan, defending champions England and most recently South Africa. The 36-year-old Rohit, who may be in his last World Cup alongside 35-year-old Virat Kohli, has scored 442 runs including one century at a strike-rate of 122.77.

"Rohit has certainly been a leader without a doubt," coach Rahul Dravid said on Saturday.

"He's led by example both on and off the field. There have been some games where it could have been tricky for us, but the fact that he's been able to get us to those kinds of starts has literally cracked open the game."

Dravid added: "He's been fantastic in his batting, the leadership that he's shown and taking on the game, in leading from the front."

Rohit's 131 against Afghanistan led the way and he followed it up with an 86 in the crushing win over Pakistan. The captain's 87 remained key in a low-scoring game against England.

Rohit took over the captaincy from Kohli, who was removed from the job in 2021 without a world title under his leadership belt.

India have travelled an exhausting 12,000km (7,500 miles) on their World Cup journey and Dravid said the team has played good cricket across all venues.

"We've travelled the length and breadth of this country and played in eight venues. This is our ninth," said Dravid.

India's captain Rohit Sharma, left, listens to head coach Rahul Dravid during a practice session in Bengaluru, on Saturday

"I think what this team has done really well is it has represented India fantastically. It's played a really good brand of cricket.

"We know we have nine boxes to tick, and we've ticked eight."

The cricket-mad nation of 1.4 billion people has been rooting for the hosts to end their world title drought stretching back to the 2013 Champions Trophy. India last won the World Cup at home in 2011.

The Netherlands have made an impact in the 10-team tournament after they stunned a high-flying South Africa. They also beat Bangladesh.

"I think the performances of teams like the Netherlands certainly go a long way in boosting the morale of a lot of the other associate nations. They can certainly compete, they've got some very good players," said Dravid.

"And it's quite inspiring to see that in spite of the challenges they face they're able to compete at this level to play at this level."

Asked to weigh on the Angelo Mathews "timed out" dismissal -- a first ever in the 146-year history of international cricket — Dravid said there were no winners. **AFP**

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CHANGE OF NAME

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I ABDUL TAYYEB S/o KHUZEMA R/o Flat No: 2005 Nandi Deepa Apartment Kammanahalli Road Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to ABDUL TAYYEB MOTORWALA for all purposes

I, Kadiri Rachith R/o No 002 KKR Pearl Apartment 8th Cross, Bhadrappa Layout B'lore-94 Changed My Name Kadiri Rachit to Kadiri Rachith for All Future Purposes

I, Sowmya Arjun Arjun Babu w/o Arjun Babu R/o #38 1st Stage 2nd Main 4th Cross arekere Mico Layout B'luru-560 076 have changed my name to Sowmya Arjun for all purposes

I, Abida Siraj R/O 30/1, Mubarak Mohalla, JC Nagar, Bengaluru-06 have changed my name to Abida Begum for all purposes.

Why Majestic bus station needs revival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There was no one waiting on the platform when the roof collapsed due to heavy rain," said a home guard pleading anonymity.

Some of the commuters expressed disappointment over the poor maintenance of the KG Bus Station. They demand the BMTC take up maintenance works on a regular basis to ensure the roof on the platforms is safe and secure.

"Though the platforms are neat and clean, the BMTC authorities have to focus on the structure which has become weak. Water leaks from the roof whenever it rains. The roof is supposed to provide shelter for commuters during monsoon and summer. What is the use of the roof of these platforms if water leaks whenever it rains?" asked Kumar G, a BMTC commuter.

Demanding the BMTC to repair the damaged portion of the roof as early as possible for the benefit of commuters who wait at platform number 18, Stephen J, a BMTC commuter, suggested reconstructing or remodelling the bus station that was constructed more than 30 years ago.

"I want the BMTC to ensure this bus station is commuter-friendly by providing all amenities," said Stephen. Meanwhile, BMTC managing director Sathyavathi G said engineers have visited the spot and are making estimates to repair the collapsed roof.

"The damaged roof will be fixed within a few days. We have sent a proposal to the Directorate of Urban Land Transport to help us to redesign the KG Bus Station. It will take time. As of now, our engineers will take measures to repair the damaged roof," BMTC MD said.

Is there a pattern to the postings?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Biodiversity Board, etc, are relevant, forest officers are sent to irrelevant departments such as Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Energy and Development, Mysore Paper Mills, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation and so on. Deputation to these departments can be justified only when all critical posts in KFD are occupied. However, this is not the case," said a city based conservationist.

Experts pointed to vacancies in critical divisions of KFD such as wildlife and Forest Mobile Squad. As per the KFD data, out of 13 posts under Forest Mobile Squad, only seven are occupied by State Forest Service officers, while six posts are lying vacant. Keeping the sanctioned posts vacant while deputing IFS and SFS officers to external departments will hamper the goal of forest and wildlife conservation, according to conservationists.

"The Forest Mobile Squad is the department's right eye. It deals with forest and wildlife offences; it is a critical wing. KFD must ensure it does not fall short of resources. Similarly, there are vacancies in research and working plan divisions.

Every forest division sketches a 10-year working plan, including activities such as wildlife conservation, forest conservation, and management of wildlife crime. Likewise, the research division looks at exploring and analysing new initiatives and wildlife research work. These are critical wings of KFD and vacancies should be immediately filled to ensure proper functioning of the department.

IFS officers should be posted for protection and conservation of forest and wildlife," said a wildlife activist.

Diwali dazzle

Janhvi Kapoor radiates joy alongside her rumoured boyfriend at Diwali celebration

Several B-town celebrities attended a Diwali bash hosted by filmmaker and producer Amritpal Singh Bindra, where they came dressed in stylish outfits. Janhvi Kapoor, with her rumoured boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya, stole the limelight on Friday night.

In the videos captured by Mumbai-based paps, Janhvi was seen arriving at the party alone in a beautiful purple saree with sequin detailing on the border and a matching strappy blouse.

She opted for a minimal makeup look. Her wavy hair accentuated her ethnic look.

Shikhar, on the other hand, wore a black and maroon traditional ensemble.

The couple arrived on their own at the party but left together. Janhvi and Shikhar were seen in a conversation as he drove her back home.

They also smiled for the paps.

Neither Janhvi nor Shikhar has confirmed or denied their relationship; however, they have been spotted together several times. Shikhar is the grandson of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. He is an entrepreneur, polo player, and philanthropist.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Janhvi will be next seen in 'Mr and Mrs Maahi' alongside actor RajKummar Rao. On Thursday, Dharma Productions took to their official Instagram and announced the new release date. Along with the post, they wrote, "Two hearts chasing one dream & it's just pitch-er perfect! The field is set for #MrAndMrsMahi, coming to cinemas on 19th April 2024."

'Mr and Mrs Mahi' is a sports drama. The film marks Janhvi and RajKummar's second collaboration after 'Roohi'. The film is directed by Sharan Sharma, who made his directorial debut with 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl'.

Janhvi and Jr NTR and Saif Ali Khan will also be seen in the Pan-India film 'Devara'. —ANI

Solo festivities

It will be a working Diwali for actor Vaani Kapoor. She is currently in London for the shoot of her film. Interestingly, Vaani will celebrate the festival with her cast and crew on the sets of her upcoming project.

"I will be spending Diwali in London this year! I look forward to celebrating it in Delhi with my family every year by being a part of the puja, lighting diyas with my folks and indulging in some homemade delicacies," she shared.

Vaani added, "'Whenever I have celebrated the festival in Mumbai, my friends have always made it special for me. However, this year, I am away from the cheerful, festive spirit of home, and I am already missing my family" —ANI

IN 4DX AT

PVR-INOX CINEMAS {Phoenix Marketcity Mall, 10:20, 4:10, 10:00 p.m. | Nexus Mall, Koramangala, 10:00, 4:40, 10:30 p.m. | Vega City, 11:10, 1:40, 7:30 p.m. | Orion Mall, 10:55, 1:25, 7:15 p.m. | Bhartiya Mall Of Bangalore, 1:40, 7:30 p.m. | Forum Mall, Kanakapura Road, 10:55, 1:25, 7:15 p.m. | Global Mall, Mysore Road, 4:40, 10:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Nexus Shanthiniketan, 11:20, 5:10, 7:40 p.m.}.

PVR-INOX CINEMAS | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS | MIRAJ | GOPALAN | INNOVATIVE | ROCKLINE | KINO CINEMAS | CINEPHILE | SHANKARNAG M. G. ROAD | LAKSHMI TAVAREKERE | BALAJI CHIKKALASANDRA | VICTORY KAMAKSHIPALYA | DRC MYSORE | BHARATH CINEMAS | MOVIE TIME {DAVANAGERE | BELLARY} | TRINETRA {DAVANAGERE} & OTHER CINEMAS.

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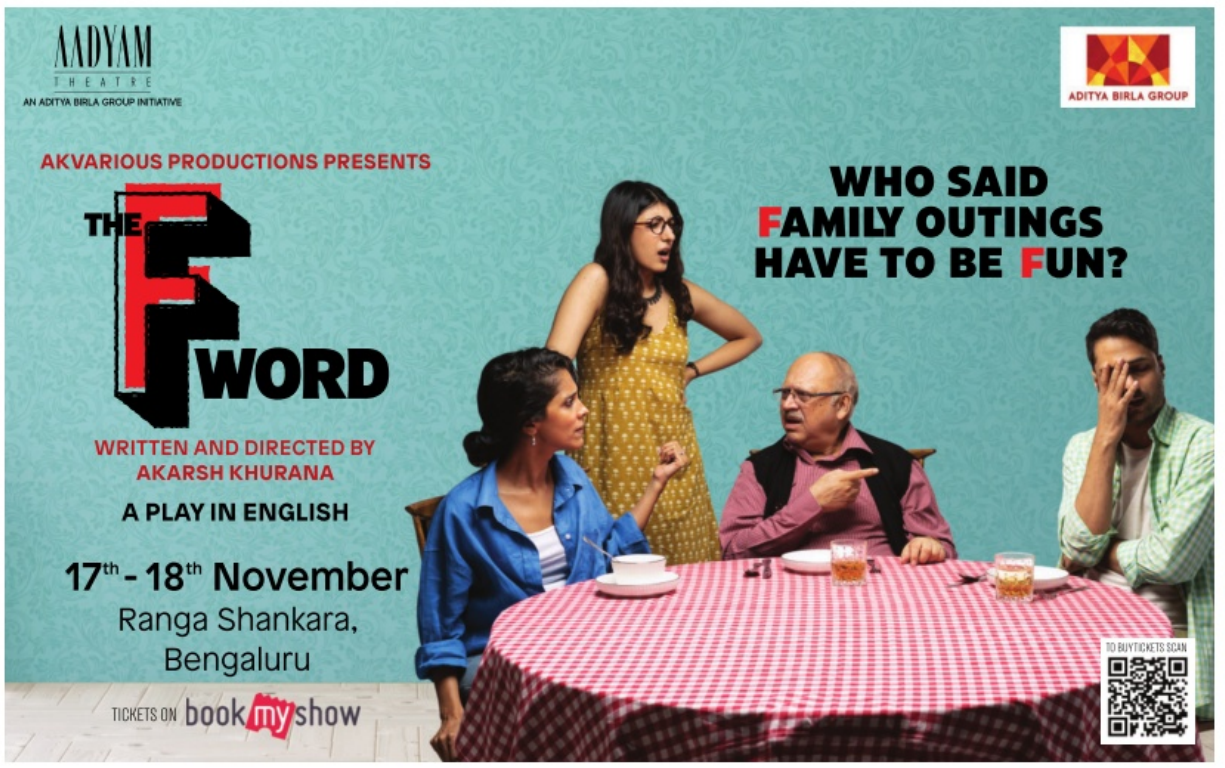
IN 4DX AT

PVR-INOX CINEMAS {Phoenix Market City, 12:50, 6:40 p.m. | Forum Mall, Kormangala, 1:20, 7:10 p.m. | Orion Mall, 3:55, 9:45 p.m. | Vega City Mall, 4:10, 10:00 p.m. | Superplex Falcon City, Kanakpura Road, 3:55, 9:45 p.m. | Bhartiya City, 10:20 a.m., 4:10, 10:00 p.m. | Global Mall, Mysore, 10:10 a.m., 1:20, 7:10 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Shantiniketan, 8:00 a.m., 1:50, 10:10 p.m.}.

ALSO SHOWING IN HINDI & TELUGU AT
PVR CINEMAS - INOX CINEMAS - CINEPOLIS CINEMAS & OTHER CINEMAS.

a yash raj films worldwide release

FARNAZ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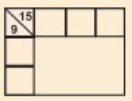
WHO SAID FAMILY OUTINGS HAVE TO BE FUN?
TO BUY TICKETS SCAN

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

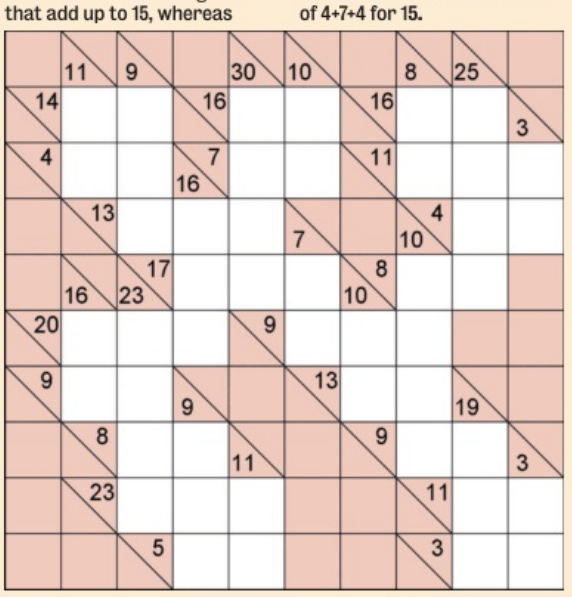
((76-16) / (46-6)) + ((44-3) / (3-7)) = ?

Kakuro

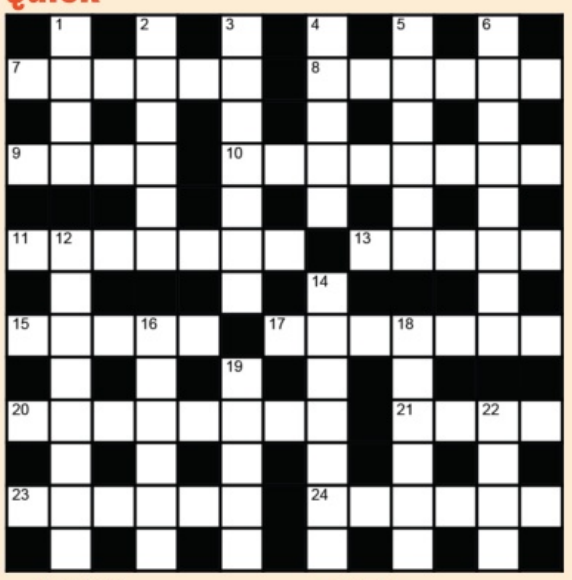
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Tennis star Andre ___ (6)
8 Draw out; evoke (6)
9 The abominable snowman (4)
10 Tolerable (8)
11 Fighting (7)
13 Merchandise (5)
15 Eating utensil (5)
17 Euphoria (7)
20 Very, very lazy? (4,4)
21 Sandwich content (4)
23 Recondition, mend or overhaul (6)
24 Excursion, trip (6)

DOWN

1 Mythical monster (4)
2 Caught sight of (6)
3 Refusing to comply, in a way? (7)
4 Reach; imply? (3,2)
5 Chirpy insect (6)
6 Our erstwhile PHL team (2-6)
12 Blows up, erupts or flares up (8)
14 ___ __ his advice : did as he counselled? (5,2)
16 Unidirectional (3,3)
18 Entices (6)
19 Alter to suit (5)
22 Tug (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS U

DPFXL ZESPAMKV DE KMD UE EV DQM DQXLUA ZES VMFP DE KEAM.

Linemaro

I would hold the elevator doors open for you if they were closing

Mindchow

The no mind not thinks no thoughts about no things

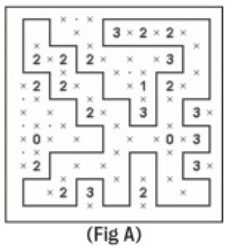
Joke of the day

I think, therefore I'm single

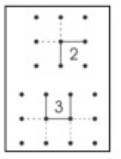
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

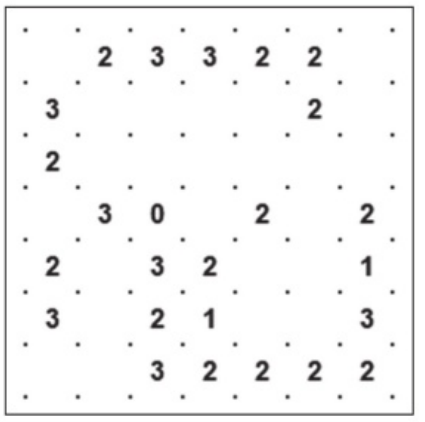


(Fig B) Not Allowed

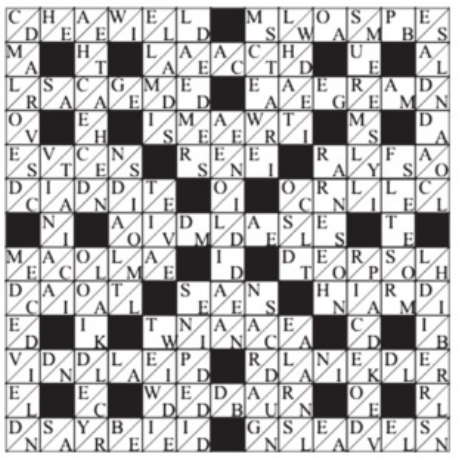
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



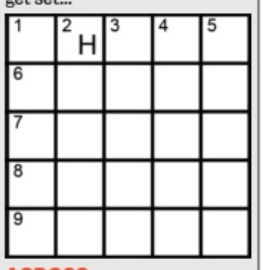
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 MC Hap; 6 Hauls; 7 Lutra; 8 If All; 9 Mar of

DOWN

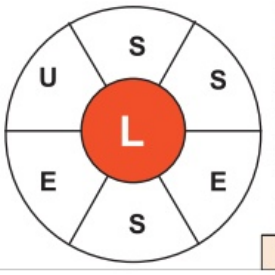
1 H cuff; 2 HL Lou; 3 Tra-la; 4 Ma IRA; 5 Lamps

Mensapuzzle

Spiral clockwise round the perimeter and finish at the centre square to spell out a nine-letter word. You must find the starting point and provide the missing letters.

	T	I
E		M
T	N	O

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	7		4	2		
		2				3		
9			3	2	5			1
	2						7	
6			1		7			4
	9						6	
7			6	3	8			2
		6				5		
		3	2		1	6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20
1 2 8 9

Medium = 13
2 4 7 8

Hard = 2
1 8 9 2

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pole is shorter. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Pool is not as wide. 4. Chair leg is moved. 5. Leaves are added. 6. Hair is different.

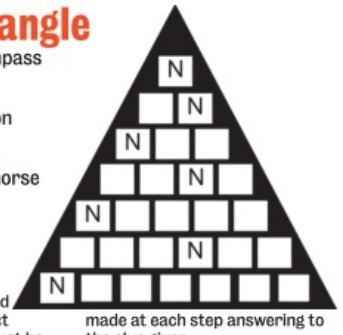
Riddler

Find the missing number

46	35	81
54	41	?
2	7	9

Alpha triangle

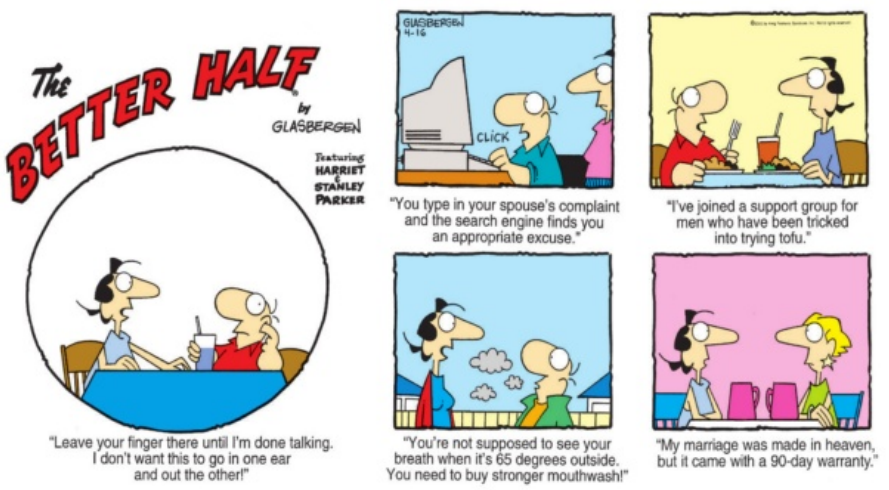
1 North on the compass
2 _ target
3 New: prefix
4 Piece of a skeleton
5 High-born
6 Monroe or Stone
7 Disabled a race horse by drugging



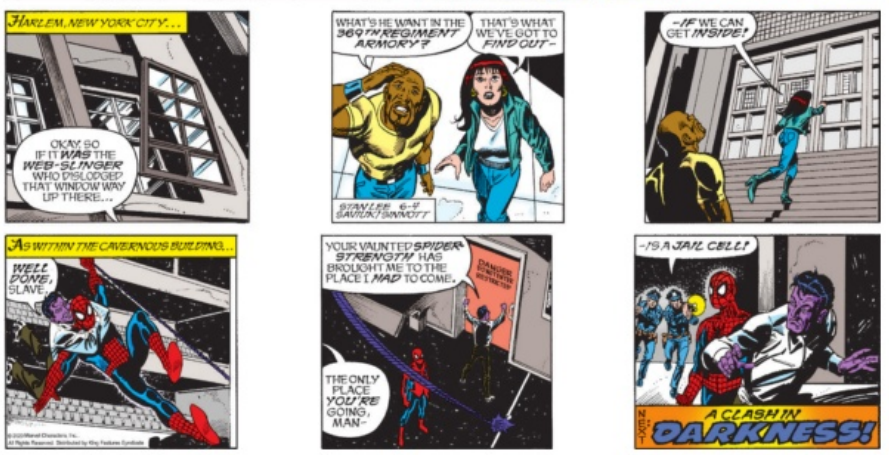
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"Leave your finger there until I'm done talking. I don't want this to go in one ear and out the other!"
GLASBERGEN 4-16
CLICK
"You type in your spouse's complaint and the search engine finds you an appropriate excuse."
"I've joined a support group for men who have been tricked into trying tofu."
"You're not supposed to see your breath when it's 65 degrees outside. You need to buy stronger mouthwash!"
"My marriage was made in heaven, but it came with a 90-day warranty."

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
Stan LEE
BY FAILING TO USE HIS "SPIDER-POWER" WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE, PETER PARKER ALLOWED A CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE THE LAW--A CRIMINAL WHO WOULD LATER MURDER PETER'S GENTLE UNCLE BEN!
THUS DID SPIDER-MAN LEARN THE FATEFUL TRUTH: WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!


HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY...
OKAY SO IF IT WAS THE WEB-SLINGER WHO DISLODGED THAT WINDOW WAY UP THERE...
WHAT'S HE WANT IN THE 369TH REGIMENT ARMORY?
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT-
-IF WE CAN GET INSIDE!
AS WITHIN THE CAVERNOUS BUILDING...
WELL DONE, SLAVE.
YOUR VAUNTED SPIDER STRENGTH HAS BROUGHT ME TO THE PLACE I MAD TO COME.
THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING, MAN-
-IS A JAIL CELL!
A CLASH IN DARKNESS!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you patience. Externally, you may face some work-related stress, but your inner sense may be calm and cool, which may help you to balance everything. You may enjoy every moment of work and domestic life. Some new sources of income may be opened, which may help you boost your financial health.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel dull today. You may face health issues. You are likely to be a victim of sleeplessness, which might make you arrogant. Your arrogance may affect domestic harmony. Your profits may be converted into losses. You are advised to think twice before making any type of financial transaction.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel energetic. Your losses may be converted into profit, which may increase your business growth. You may make some difficult decisions in business with the help of your subordinates. You might perform at work efficiently, and your boss may support you. You may also expect to get incentives that may increase your savings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at work, but with the help of destiny, you are likely to implement some new ideas in your work. You may follow rules and be ethical in your dealings with the people around you, which may give you inner peace and inner strength.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today things are under control; you may be able to come out of yesterday's messy situation. You may work with great patience, which may reflect on your way of working. Love birds may plan for an outing, and students may have a good focus on their goals. Singles may find their love in the same community.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull and unhappy. You may be a victim of mood swings, which may reflect on your domestic life harmony. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work; otherwise, you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rash driving and adventure tours.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you; you may feel harmony in domestic life; and you may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may assist you in making important professional decisions. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, a positive moon may make you happy. You can use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good on the job, and you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues among family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to find a suitable job in their domain. Love birds may enjoy their dating.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may have mixed situations around you. It is advised to not expect more from anyone around you; it may make you disappointed. Today you may have self-exploration and self-analysis, which may allow you to filter yourself. After the filtration process, you may feel confident and be able to prepare to accept challenges.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, dissatisfaction may make you upset. You may not be able to enjoy every single moment. You may have a lack of patience, which may affect your way of working. Silly mistakes may happen in your task. You are advised to practice meditation or yoga. You may also visit some religious places to seek peace.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel energetic, and your speed of work may be noticeable. You may perform a difficult task in an easy way. A dispute between siblings may be settled now, which may lead to happiness in the family. Your focus on your goals may be noticeable, which will give you success in your work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may expect to inherit some assets. You may perform with patience on the work front, which may increase your efficiency. You may be polite with the people around you. You may put less effort into day-to-day work. You may use your communication skills to get new work in terms of progress on the work front.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(60 /40) + (41/–4) =
(6/4) – (41/4) =
6–4 (1/4) =
–35/4= –8.75

BULL'S EYE
else, less, USELESS

STRIKE OUT

C	H	E	W	E	D	S	W	A	M	P	S			
A	N	T	L	E	A	C	H	U	A					
R	A	C	E	M	E	A	E	G	E	A	N			
V	H	S	M	A	R	T	S	D						
E	V	E	N	S	E	E	A	L	F	A				
D	I	D	I	T	O	O	R	I	E	L				
N	A	I	M	L	E	S	S	T						
D	I	A	L	S	A	S	N	A	R	I				
E	C	O	L	E	I	T	O	P	O	L				
D	K	W	I	N	C	E	C	B						
I	N	L	A	D	R	A	N	K	L	E				
B	O	N	E	I	D	L	E	M	A	Y	O			
L	N	A	T	E										
S	P	O	O	N	E	C	S	T	A	S	Y			
X	G	A		R										
F	E	U	D	I	N	G	W	A	R	E	S			
Y	E	T	I	B	E	A	R	A	B	L	E			
R	P	B	T	C	F									
A	G	A	S	S	I	E	L	I	C	I	T			
R	E	V	A	M	P	O	U	T	I	N	G			
S	Y	T	N	S	K									

QUICK

O	E	J	G	C	H									
A	G	A	S	S	I	E	L	I	C	I	T			
R	P	B	T	C	F									
Y	E	T	I	B	E	A	R	A	B	L	E			
F	E	U	D	I	N	G	W	A	R	E	S			
X	G	A		R										
S	P	O	O	N	E	C	S	T	A	S	Y			
L	N	A	T	E										
B	O	N	E	I	D	L	E	M	A	Y	O			
D	W	A	D	P	A									
I	N	L	A	D	R	A	N	K	L	E				
D	K	W	I	N	C	E	C	B						
D	I	A	L	S	A	S	N	A	R	I				
E	C	O	L	E	I	T	O	P	O	L				
E	E	D	E	B	A	R	E	L						
D	A	Y	B	E	D	G	L	A	D	E	S			

FAST FIVE

C	H	A	M	P
H	U	L	A	S
U	L	T	R	A
F	L	A	I	L
F	O	R	A	M

MENSA PUZZLE
TESTIMONY.

RIDDLER
74 (4x4) + (6x6) + 2 =
54 (3x3) + (5x5) + 7 =
41 (8x8) + (1x1) + 9 =
74

QUOTE UNCODE
Train yourself to let go of the things you fear to lose.

SUDOKU

3	8	1	7	9	4	2	5	6
5	7	2	8	1	6	3	4	9
9	6	4	3	2	5	7	8	1
4	2	8	9	6	3	1	7	5
6	3	5	1	8	7	9	2	4
7	5	9	6	3	8	4	1	2
1	9	7	5	4	2	8	6	3
2	1	6	4	7	9	5	3	8
8	4	3	2	5	1	6	9	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, On, Neo, Bone, Noble, Blonde, Nobbled.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 9 + 2 + 1 = 20
Medium
8 + 4 / 2 + 7 = 13
Hard
2 – 9 + 1 + 8 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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